

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 FILE-01 /012 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O: MPENDLETON

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O: RWRIGHT

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S E C R E T STATE 070333

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CINCPAC FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM NICOSIA 141115 Z APR 73:

QUOTE: NICOSIA 866

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR CY IS

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION ON ARAB TERRORISM

REF: STATE 68076

BEGIN SUMMARY: FON OFF DIR GEN VENIAMIN STATES ARAB
TERRORISTS SEIZED APRIL 9 WILL BE TRIED AND JAILED,
AND DEPORTED ONLY IF NECESSARY TO AVOID BLACKMAIL
BY FURTHER VIOLENCE. MEANWHILE, CYPRUS IS SCREENING ALL
ARABS AND ISRAELIS NOW IN CYPRUS AND THOSE ENTERING BY AIR.
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WELCOMED
BY CYPRIOTS. END SUMMARY

1. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH MAKARIOS
ON SHORT NOTICE DURING THIS PERIOD OF INTERNAL STRESS IN
CYPRUS, BUT I AM SEEING HIM MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 16.

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2. MEANWHILE, HAVING IN MIND URGENCY OF SITUATION, I CALLED ON FON OFF DIR GEN VENIAMIN (AT MOMENT IN CHARGE AT FON OFF AND DE FACTO COORDINATOR OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN RE ARAB TERRORISM) AND GAVE HIM GIST OF MESSAGE I WAS INSTRUCTED TO PASS TO ARCHBISHOP; EXPRESSED PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR STALWART REACTION OF CYPRUS GOVT TO ARAB TERRORISM CASE THUS FAR; AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ACTIONS CYPRUS MIGHT TAKE IN FUTURE WOULD BUTTRESS AND NOT HAMPER ONGOING BATTLE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH MUST BE CARRIED OUT ON ALL FRONTS.

3. VENIAMIN TOLD ME THAT AT HIGH LEVEL MEETING APRIL 13 CYPRUS GOVT HAD DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH TRIAL OF EIGHT TERRORISTS NOW IN CUSTODY. HE ANTICIPATED THEY WOULD BE KEPT IN JAIL JUST AS LONG AS CYPRUS GOVT COULD AFFORD TO DO SO WITHOUT BEING SUBJECTED TO INTOLERABLE BLACKMAIL. AT SAME TIME EGYPT AND SYRIA HAVE BEEN TOLD (AS WE HAVE REPORTED) THAT FUTURE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CYPRUS WOULD LEAD TO TOTAL EXCLUSION OF ARABS FROM CYPRUS.

4. VENIAMIN THEN OUTLINED FOR ME STEPS CYPRUS GOVT HAS BEGUN TO TAKE TO DISCOURAGE FUTURE TERRORISM IN CYPRUS. ALL ARABS AND ISRAELIS RESIDENT IN CYPRUS ARE BEING SCREENED, AND SUSPECTS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE. IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AT AIRPORT ARE AUTHORIZED TO REFUSE ADMISSION TO ALL SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND WHERE DOUBTFUL TO ALERT CIS (CYPRUS INTELLIGENCE). GOVT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ASKING ANOTHER COUNTRY WITH MISSIONS IN BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM OR TEL AVIV TO ADMINISTER A REQUIREMENT THAT ARABS BOUND FOR CYPRUS REQUEST VISAS TO BE OBTAINED FROM NICOSIA PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. (CYPRUS HAS ITS OWN MISSION IN CAIRO.)

5. VENIAMIN SAYS SURVEY SHOWS ABOUT 400 ARABS NOW LIVING IN CYPRUS, OF WHOM CLOSE TO 200 ARE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED. MOST OTHERS ARE GENUINE TOURISTS MAINLY FROM LEBANON BUT SOME MAY BE AFFILIATED WITH TERRORISTS. THERE ARE ONLY 60 OR 80 VISITING ISRAELIS ON THE ISLAND.

6. VENIAMIN STATES CYPRUS GOVT EAGER TO EXCHANGE
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INFORMATION WITH US RE TERRORISTS AND TERRORISM.

WE WILL PURSUE THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS. HE REMARKED THAT TERRORISTS NOW IN CUSTODY HERE HAD CARRIED POLISH WEAPONS OF A TYPE NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN IN THIS COUNTRY. EXPLOSIVES, HOWEVER, ARE OF TYPE COMMONLY FOUND EVERYWHERE AND ORIGIN NOT IDENTIFIABLE.

7. VENIAMIN WAS FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RESULTS OF THESE MEASURES, COMBINED AS THEY ARE WITH WARNINGS TO EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN GOVTS ABOUT CONSEQUENCES OF FUTURE TERRORIST VIOLENCE IN CYPRUS. CYPRIOTS CONSIDER PUBLIC EGYPTIAN RESPONSE ENCOURAGING. VENIAMIN SAYS THEY HAVE HAD PRIVATE EXPRESSION OF REGRET OVER APRIL 9 INCIDENT FROM SYRIAN GOVT AND SOME SORT OF REASSURING WORD (NOT FURTHER DESCRIBED) FROM ARAFAT. VENIAMIN IS WORRIED, HOWEVER, RE POSSIBLE FUTURE LIBYAN CONNECTION WITH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES HERE. NOTES THAT 400-500 CYPRIOT WORKERS AND TECHNICIANS ARE EMPLOYED ON PROJECTS IN LIBYA, AND THAT CYPRUS HAS A TIDY EXPORT TRADE TO LIBYA. HOWEVER, LIBYA HAS NOT YET FIGURED IN LOCAL ARAB ACTIVITIES.

8. COMMENT: I BELIEVE CURRENT CYPRUS GOVT ATTITUDE, AS DESCRIBED BY VENIAMIN, IS ABOUT AS FAVORABLE AS WE COULD EXPECT. CYPRIOTS OBVIOUSLY FEEL THAT THEIR STRONGEST POINT IN RESTRAINING ARAB IS UTILITY OF CYPRUS AS MEETING AND TRANSIT POINT FOR THEIR PEOPLE -- WHICH WOULD BE GREATLY DIMINISHED BY AN EXCLUSION POLICY. WHEN I SEE ARCHBISHOP APRIL 16, I WILL URGE HIM TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON TRIAL AND DETENTION OF TERRORISTS. DEPT SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS, HOWEVER; IF THE PRESSURES ON CYPRUS BECOME STRONG ENOUGH, THE CYPRIOTS WILL IN MY OPINION RELEASE AND DEPORT THEIR CAPTIVES IN HOPE OF AVOIDING FURTHER VIOLENCE, WHATEVER WE OR OTHERS MAY SAY. POPPER UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE070333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: MPENDLETON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaipoo.tel
Line Count: 152
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 68076
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <22-Oct-2001 by eisnerah, 3.4.X1, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121
Subject: REPRESENTATION ON ARAB TERRORISM
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CY, IS
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005